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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 34 | Min 23 | Humidity 45% Partly cloudy sky Sensex 57,595 | Nifty 17,222 | Gold 52,310 | Silver 72,800 | Dollar 76.36 | Euro 83.91 | GBP 100.43

Summertime

CITY PAGE 3

City witnessed hottest day of the year so far. Weather is just warming up!

Rites of Passage

CITY PAGE 9

Underpass yet to see light of day as deadline looms

Citizens allege fresh encroachment of Gattahalli Lake by private players; lake is critical link in sustaining water in at least 45 waterbodies of Anekal taluk

LAKE PIRATES OF BENGALURU

'Over 1 lakh sq ft of lake land encroached'

Iffath Fathima@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

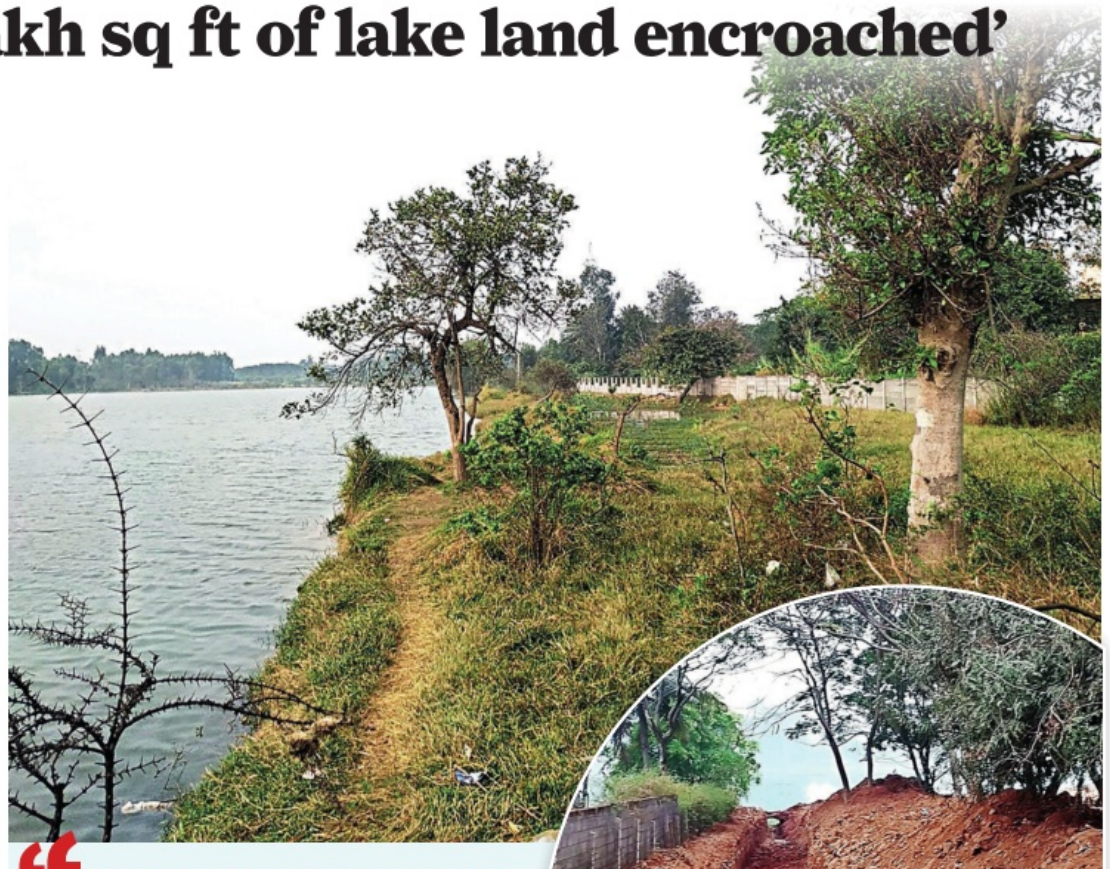
The Gattahalli Lake, which is spread across 100 acres in Anekal taluk, was recently surveyed. The encroachments at the waterbody were removed last year in the month of August.

That said, once again now, lake activists and citizens from the area are complaining about private entities encroaching upon the waterbody.

Last year, several encroachments by local farmers and natural blockages were seen at the lake premises which needed to be addressed. The revenue department officials along with deputy commissioner J Manjunath and resident citizens had carried out the removal of encroachments back then.

Gattahalli Lake serves as an important reservoir in the lake network that sustains robust water channeling. The waterbody receives KC Valley water which then flows into the Muthanallur Lake and thereafter feeds over 45 lakes in Anekal taluk. Henceforth, the lake is in fact a critical link in maintaining the water table and ecosystem of the lakes it helps sustain.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »



Alleged encroachment

"As per Dishaank map, with survey area and information of lakes in state, the land belongs to the lake....

— Resident citizens

Women for climate action

Selected to be recognised as climate professionals after mentorship programme

Garima Prasher
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in association with C40 Cities Network, has launched the 'Women4Climate' programme.

Under the initiative, women of Bengaluru, who are working in the climate domain will come under one roof to fight climate change.

BBMP will identify women entering or at an early stage of their work in the climate domain and match them with individual mentors to help them further develop their climate ideas or project.

This will help these climate change fighters access in-depth knowledge of their ideas in a particular sector. They will also be mentored to realise their idea into reality which could be replicable and scalable.

"To build resilient cities, communities are to be inclusive and the most vulnerable must be protected. Hence, cities must pursue gender-inclusive climate action and encourage community-led projects that benefit all citizens equitably.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

Nandi Hills open on weekends

Prior booking mandatory; tickets to be available in offline and online mode

Kanithahalli N Chandregowda
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Owing to the pressure of the public, the Chikkaballapur district administration has finally decided to open the Nandi Hills on weekends. However, it won't be an easy run to the famed hill station as prior booking is necessary.

Chikkaballapur Deputy Commissioner R Latha said that the hill station was earlier barred for tourists on weekends due to crowd control following the covid pandemic. Hence, only those who had booked rooms on the hill station were allowed while the general public were barred.

Starting Saturday, Nandi Hills will be open to the public on weekends. The tickets will be available both in online and offline modes. People can book their tickets a day before on www.kstdc.co. A ticket counter will also be available at the foothills.

> **"During the weekend, 1,000 two-wheelers and 300 light motor vehicles (including mini buses) will be allowed**
> – R Latha, Chikkaballapur Deputy Commissioner

Latha said that without the tickets, there will strictly be no entry.

She said that during the weekend, 1,000 two-wheelers and 300 light motor vehicles (including mini buses) will be allowed. The tickets will be given based on the parking space available. If many vehicles are returning, then extra tickets will be provided in lieu of the returned vehicles.

BangaloreMirror
Nandi Hills shuts shop to tourists' dismay

On March 21, BM had reported on visitors being banned during weekends to curb pollution and reduce crowding

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An all-inclusive railway station

KSR Railway Station upgrades facilities for the ease and comfort of those with visual, audial, and other impairments

Bellie.Thomas
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @Bellie_Mirror

The Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station, also known as the KSR city railway station, can now boast about being more accessible for differently abled and senior citizens.

Divisional Railway Manager Shyam Singh on Thursday inaugurated the Accessible Railway Stations, which is aimed at making railway stations comfortable for the differently abled and senior citizens.

The initiative, was funded by Sapiens Technologies India Pvt ltd, and taken up in association with the Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled aimed at providing better accessibility features such as availability of sign language announcements for speech-and hearing-impaired, Braille maps, signages, platform indicators, auditory signals at the entrances and exits for visually impaired people/ people with different abilities and senior citizens.

In January 2018, the railway board had decided to replace the words blind, deaf, dumb and physically challenged from the concession forms.

The new words were persons with visual impairment, persons with speech and hearing impairment, and divyangjan for those physically challenged.

A spokesperson for the South Western Railways (SWR) said that senior railway officials decided to add more features. It was then when this initiative was brought up and subsequently approved.

"The waiting hall for the divangjan and senior citizens at KSR is an upgraded one with improved facilities such as hand railings, non-slippery floors, comfortable seating, and an attached restroom facility fitted with differently abled-friendly accessories," said Aneesh Hegde, spokesperson for SWR.

KSR Railway Station has also installed Braille maps and auditory signals in its concourse along with regular announcements, LED TVs showing videos with sign languages for hearing-impaired and the visually impaired respectively, Hegde added.

SWR officials now have plans to bring in the same concept to Whitefield Railway Station, Cantonment, Yeswanthpur and Kengeri.

"At present, there are no tactile pavements at the railway station platforms, but in future constructions, we have decided to construct one so that the visually impaired passengers can use that."

Signages in Braille have been put up at common points for those who are visually impaired

You think it's hot? It is just warming up, folks

B'luru records maximum temperature of 33.6 degree on Wed; two degrees above normal

Garima Prasher
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru on Wednesday night recorded its warmest night of the year. According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), the night of March 23 recorded two degrees more than the normal and the highest minimum temperature of the year.

On Wednesday, the city recorded a temperature of 33.6 degrees maximum during the day, whereas the minimum temperature at night went up to 23.4 degrees.

"This was two degrees above the normal temperature. For instance, the minimum temperature recorded on Wednesday night at the Dharwad station was 20 degrees. On Tuesday night, the minimum temperature in Bengaluru was 21.4 degrees," said a senior Met official.

IMD forecast that the minimum temperature at night in the city will continue to be on the higher side in the coming few days. Weather experts say that while the normal minimum temperature value on March 23 for Bengaluru is 21 degrees, cloudy conditions have led to an increase in the minimum temperature digits.

While Wednesday was sunny and bright, Met experts predict cloudy conditions will continue as well for the next few days (file)

The official added that Wednesday was nice and sunny throughout the day. However, the city also witnessed a cloudy evening, which continued at night too.

"The prevailing wind from the south or southeast direction laden with moisture and an overcast sky led to a warmer night on Wednesday. Cloudy evenings and nights will continue for the next four to five days and thus, the temperature will stay on the higher side."

IMD also clarified that during this season, the maximum temperature in Karnataka, including Bengaluru, will either be normal or below normal. Moreover, the rainfall during the summer will either be normal or above normal.

"As per the reports from IMD headquarters, the maximum temperature during this summer season will be on the lower side of the normal value. "However, it is different for the northern part of Karnataka. We are witnessing a two-to three-degree rise in temperature in the northern part of the state."

For instance, in north interior Karnataka, the maximum temperature will be three degrees above the normal. However, the remaining areas will experience normal or below normal temperature, said the official. According to IMD, rainfall in this month has been as expected across the state, except in parts of coastal Karnataka which recorded above normal rainfall by 38 per cent.

IRIA to discuss infant mortality

The 74th annual conference of the Indian Radiological and Imaging Association (IRIA) will be inaugurated by Higher Education Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan on Friday. The conference is being organised by the Karnataka state chapter of IRIA, a national body representing over 18,000 radiologists, after a gap of nearly 15 years.

IRIA said that radiologists were playing an important role, especially in the Samrakshana programme for reducing premature births. "During the antenatal scan, the radiologists identify such foetuses during pregnancy," said the organisers.

RCB: New anthem to boost team spirit

With the Indian Premier League just around the corner, fans are rooting for Royal Challengers Bangalore to win the cup this time. A new anthem cheering the remodelled team was released on YouTube on Thursday.

Now, a special song has been dedicated to the new team and to loyal fans. The anthem has been produced by Subashini Srinivas, an IT professional, and the song has been composed by Sriram Gandharva. The voices of the songs are Aniruddh Shastry, Abhishek, and rapper Gubbi. The song has been directed by duo Vasantha and Vinutha.

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CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE

WHILE SUVS HAVE BECOME QUITE POPULAR, NEW BUYERS ARE STILL INVESTING IN ENTRY LEVEL CARS ESPECIALLY SINCE THE PANDEMIC

PICKING SPEED

Respedit.Bangalore
@timesgroup.com

For most of us, buying a car is the first of the many dreams we hope to realise. Owning a vehicle is a comfort, and more often than not, a necessity. An investment that can reap you the benefits of convenience and saving time, many look forward to making this worthy investment. But in the past couple of years that has not been easy. With the instability buying and selling of cars was the last thing on people's minds. But the situation seems seem to be taking a turn for the better now. The automobile industry too has been evolving to cater to the different lifestyle requirements of the customers. In the next few months, many major automobile companies are expected to launch new vehicles and update existing models which will also be available in city showrooms. The customer care manager of a car agency, says, "Sales have not been great in the past few months, but with so many new models on the horizon, sales are sure to look up. A leading car manufacturer is coming up with a new SUV; another will launch an updated version of one of their popular sedan models. When customers come to know that there are new options in the market, it piques their interest and many of them end up buying. Most of these models will also have diesel variants, an all-time popular pick due to the good mileage they give." With so many new launches and models in the market, buyers have a plethora of options to choose from. It seems like the line between a sedan, a hatchback and an SUV has blurred in many cases. With more and more people leaning towards utility vehicles, the sale of sedans has seen a hit in recent times while compact SUVs seem to be the current favourite since they are in the same price range as small cars.

According to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), the entry level car segment which includes the mini, micro and compact has been growing at a moderate rate (at par with passenger vehicle growth rate) over the years, while the compact SUV segment has developed significantly over the years due to which the market share of compact SUV segment in total passenger vehicles have grown. As such, the volume growth and share of small cars continue to dominate Indian passenger vehicles and it is not correct to say that new buyers are not investing in entry level segment of cars.

"It is true that customers today are looking at mid-size cars and compact SUVs interchangeably and with a number of new attractive and affordable compact SUV models coming into the market, the segment has taken off reflecting a surge in SUV share. These monocoque compact SUVs are different from the conventional SUVs which are built on chassis and we expect that the mid-size and compact SUVs will continue to play an important role in Indian market as newer and attractive models are offered by companies," according to Ravish Sharma, senior sales manager at an automobile dealership.

SIZE DOES MATTER

India is a developing country with rising per capita income and young population. The country runs on the aspirations of its youth. Passenger vehicles will continue to be an aspirational product for the population of the country. Also, growth in a particular segment is driven by customer choice and affordability. The preference of Indian customers for smaller SUVs has driven growth in this segment and hence all companies have developed products to get a pie of the expanding market segment. Given more choices, the segment is expected to witness further growth.

A SHIFT IN GROWTH

The micro and mini segment presently accounts for about 1/4th of the sales of all passenger vehicles in the country compared to the share of compacts at about 1/2 of the total volumes. There are three major factors that have led to a gear shift in the growth of this segment. First, higher sticker prices on the back of rising manufacturing costs, driven in part by upgrades to meet the upcoming stringent emission norms, is making micros and minis less attractive to the middle-income buyers. "Entry-level buyers with higher and rising income levels are skipping this segment in favour of more stylish, feature-rich and affordable sub-compact cars," says Ammar Master, senior manager of an automotive company. And last but not the least is the "government policy changes are dictating and influencing consumer preferences towards more fuel-efficient, cleaner and safer vehicles," adds Ammar.

Small cars and hatchback have been the mainstay for the automobile industry in India. These segments will continue to maintain a dominant position, but the majority of growth is expected to come from new segments such as compact SUVs, sedans, and luxury vehicles. After creating a strong value proposition in mini cars, India is gaining global recognition in the compact sedan and SUV category.

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PEDAL TO THE CLASSIC METAL

WITH THE LOVE FOR VINTAGE CARS ONLY GAINING MOMENTUM, CAR RALLIES HAVE GARNERED A UNIQUE FAN FOLLOWING OF THEIR OWN. HERE'S A LOOK AT SOME OF THE MOST NOTEWORTHY AUTOMOBILE EVENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Respedit.Bangalore
@timesgroup.com

RÉTROMOBILE

The beautiful city of Paris is the perfect backdrop for the mechanical beauties seen at Rétromobile. With a history of showcasing cars since 1976, it is not an event to miss if you're a lover of classic cars. The well frequented annual affair also exhibits vintage two-wheelers. There are also interesting exhibitions that showcase art sculpted from old cars.

BICESTER HERITAGE

Bicester Heritage is a classic car event which is growing fast in popularity. The event is held at Bicester Aerodrome, a preserved World War II airfield in Oxfordshire, United Kingdom. Visited by enthusiasts and car owners alike, the festival is even known to showcase restored fighter planes. However, it's the restored classic cars that draw in all the attention.

CHANTILLY ARTS & ELEGANCE RICHARD MILLE

This festival is held at the serene Château de Chantilly-a chateau renowned for its collection of paintings, second in size to only the Louvre. The cars showcased here are no less mesmerising than a painted masterpiece. The event Concours d'Elegance (competition of elegance), a sub-event of car meetings is an out-of-this-world experience in itself. Historically, such meetings of cars began as a competition among aristocrats who would show off their horse-drawn carriages. This later changed to a competition between cars. And what fine cars they were! With cars from Aston Martin, Bugatti, Pagani, Ferrari and Porsche gracing the grounds, this event is nothing if not exotic.

PEBBLE BEACH CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

No discussion about classic car events can be complete without mentioning the iconic Pebble Beach event. A dream destination for car lovers, here's where one can admire exquisite specimens of mechanical ingenuity and inspired design. The world's most prestigious car manufacturers present their latest products at this event. However, it's the vintage cars which make an appearance here that capture the imagination of enthusiasts of all age groups. Automotive heavy-weights like Jay Leno are known to have reviewed everything here-from ancient steam cars to antiques from the 1930s and even breathtaking racers from the 1960s. Called the 'Ultimate Car Week' by some, there is nothing that this show does not offer.

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RETRO CLASSICS STUTTGART

Cars from all over the world are displayed at Retro Classics Stuttgart. This event, spanning an area of about 1,40,000 square metres, showcases mechanical gems of yore. The exhibition saw a whopping attendance of around 4,000 participants this year. Here's where you can catch a glimpse of cars from the stables of Porsche, Alfa Romeo, Jaguar, BMW, Mercedes, Ford and General Motors.

STATESMAN VINTAGE & CLASSIC CAR RALLY

When it comes to classic car events, India isn't far behind. One such iconic event is the Statesman Vintage & Classic Car Rally, which is held in New Delhi and Kolkata. Its latest iteration was hosted at the historic Fort William in the City of Joy (Kolkata). The rally has been a regular affair since 1964. Every year, car lovers from Delhi and Kolkata are treated to the sight of majestic vehicles like the Rolls-Royce, Jaguar and Bentley from the '30s and '50s. Besides these, there are rarities like the Triumph Spitfires and Ford Mustangs from the '60s.

MARUTI SUZUKI

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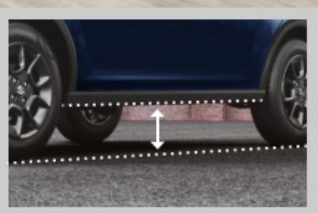
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Concrete cover-up job

First trees were chopped, now gaps are filled with concrete; forest dept steps in seeking action

Iffath Fathima
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Seven well-grown Ashoka trees on a pavement in Kadubeesanahalli were illegally cut down to 'provide visibility' to a private school. Later, the spot where the trees stood was cemented and covered up

Weeks after a private school allegedly axed seven well-grown Ashoka trees in front of its premises in Kadubeesanahalli, residents have now raised concerns over the vacant spots where the trees stood being concretised.

One of the residents pointed out that he had gone out of town for a few weeks, and on his return on Monday, he noticed that the trees were chopped off. The private school refused to have chopped the trees, he said. On Tuesday, the residents noticed that even the trunks of the trees were chopped and spots were covered with cement.

Resident Ram said, "I was surprised to see that the trees were chopped off. The stretch here would look beautiful because of the trees standing on the roadside. They would also provide a lot of shade. On Tuesday, when I noticed the concrete space, I approached the school officials, who stated that it was done to provide visibility to the school. It was really disappointing to see that such well-grown trees were chopped off. The citizens of the locality conduct many tree planting drives to improve the green area and our lung space. However, with these activities, we would only lose the existing green cover."

BangaloreMirror
Beauty and the trees
Seven trees in front of school cut down 'to beautify premises'

On Feb 26, BM reported that the trees were cut down to 'beautify' school premises

When Ram raised the issue on social media, he was told by the Mahadevpura task force team that an FIR has been filed in this regard. The official handle of the task force attached a copy of the complaint copy with the response. The FIR was filed against Geetanjali Olympiad School by the Karnataka Forest Department. "Thanks for highlighting this issue. Unfortunately, it was the School which had done this illegal felling of trees. An FIR has been lodged against the School and the Forest department is pursuing the case." tweeted the Mahadevpura task force team.

> "We are giving them some time to replant the trees. With the heat, it will be difficult for new plants to grow
>
> –RFO, Yelahanka zone

The incident had already come into light earlier and an FIR had already been filed. Now, the range forest officer (RFO) of Yelahanka zone has assured to have the school plant back the trees in the same space. "We have booked a case against the management of the school and they will have to pay a fine. They will also have to remove the cementing and plant the trees in the same space. We are giving them some time for the plantation to be done. As with the heat, it would be difficult for new plants to grow. Once the season is better, we will ask the school to plant the trees."

Vijay Nishanth, known as the Tree Doctor, said, "Educational institutions need to promote tree plantation among students and others and bring awareness of planting more trees and protecting them. Chopping trees is not acceptable and it is also illegal. As in this case, they had also covered the trees' space with cement, strict action needs to be taken against them."

Another city lake encroached

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

While removing the encroachments last year, gates put up by private players in the vicinity of the lake were demolished by a revenue department team and Anekal administration.

However, now some private parties have once again acquired land near the lake. Citizens in the area pointed out that more than one lakh square feet of land has been encroached.

The 'Citizens Movement, East Bengaluru' team posted on social media that a certain part of the lake has been dug up by a private builder. While there is no indication of what work is going to take place, a huge portion has been dug up, threatening the waterbody.

Members of 'Citizens Movement, East Bengaluru' said a portion of the lake was encroached upon where a large number of trees and other flora were present. Many people would

come in the mornings and evenings and would relax here, while a few had even made it their favourite picnic spot. Once the encroachments began three months ago, people stopped visiting the lake, as the area concerned is now blocking entry to people.

"Private builders are digging in the place and have made it like a landfill; they are getting soil and even filling the portion. The builder is now saying that the land belongs to them. However, the Dishaank map, which gives survey area and information of the lakes in the state, clearly shows the land belonging to the lake. This was a beautiful location people visited daily. Now the entry to the park area of the lake is blocked. People have stopped coming. We have highlighted the issue to the panchayat, tahsildar, DC and area MLA; our requests have gone unnoticed," said a member of 'Citizens Movement, East Bengaluru'.

Lake activist Captain Santosh Kumar said a private builder is encroaching upon and building in the lake premises. "I have informed the tahsildar to constitute a team and verify the encroachments; we will ask the administration to conduct another survey. We need to make sure that once the encroachments are removed, then the waterbody is not encroached upon again. Strict action needs to be taken against the encroachers so that the lake is not affected again. The DC and tahsildar need to come forward and take action against the violators," he noted.

The citizens, meanwhile, also pointed out that as the lake is bordering the BBMP area, real estate value of the land is high. This leads to illegal encroachments. Some even alleged the builders have bribed the panchayat and other officials, because of which stern action has not been taken yet.

"The issue was brought to my notice last Saturday. I would be inspecting the spot on Friday. I will look into the problem," Anekal tahsildar Dinesh told BM.

Bangalore Mirror reached out to Bengaluru Urban deputy commissioner Manjunath J. He was unresponsive on the matter.

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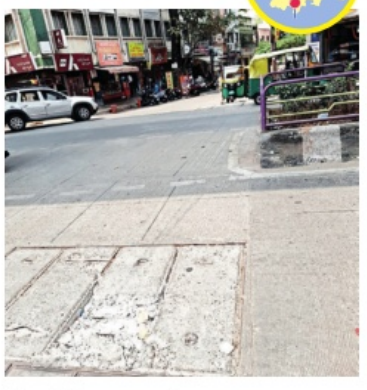
No more pollution
HSR Layout

Garbage is being burnt regularly near the BDA complex in HSR layout. Despite hundreds of complaints from residents, no action has been taken. Pourakarmikas do not listen to the requests. The issue needs immediate attention.

Fix the slabs
Indiranagar



The slabs covering sewers on CMH Road and Indiranagar 17E Cross junction are on the verge of collapse. The BBMP and BWSSB should inspect the issue and fix the slabs at the earliest.

Lethal connection
CV Raman Nagar

Even after laying underground cable six months ago on 14D Cross Road at Nagavarapalya in CV Raman Nagar, Bescom officials have not disconnected the hanging wires.

EV market may grow by 200% in 2 years: Bescom

MD says to meet rising demand, charging station needed every 3 km

Melvin Mathew
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Bengaluru may be in the forefront of the Electric Vehicle (EV) revolution, but the growth of the e-vehicles is expected to be more than double.

The Bescom estimates that there can be a 200 per cent growth in the EV sector in the next two years. In an exclusive interview with Bangalore Mirror, Bescom Managing Director Rajendra Cholan said, "We are concentrating on EV charging infrastructure right now. There are around 50,000 EV vehicles on Bengaluru roads. In the next two years, we are expecting these numbers to go up to 3-4 lakh. To meet the rising demand, we will have to establish one charging station every 3 km. We are also working towards developing battery swapping stations."

He said that there were 136 charging points with Bescom. "In the next three months, we will be able to establish 500 charging points. We also need to strengthen our network. Areas where 25KV charging stations will be established will also require an uninterrupted power supply. We have already completed the study for this purpose and are working towards the solution."

Cholan said that to manage 3-4 lakh vehicles, Bescom needs to establish 1,500-2,000 charging points to provide sufficient supply to the end consumer. "To secure locations, we are collaborating with BBMP, BDA, BMTC and other government departments. We are looking towards extending to private places like RWAs, apartment parking places and malls."

There is also a need for proper integration, he said.

"There is no single platform to show all the charging stations available for the public. Bescom is working on this along with Smart City to develop an app, integrating all the charging stations. It will be made mandatory for even private manufacturers to provide information about their charging stations. On the app, users can pre-book their slots. We are going to launch in 30-45 days."

Cholan said that in the first week of April, Bescom is planning to involve all the stakeholders to address the challenges related to EV. "We have created a single-window system where people applying for battery charging or battery swapping stations. They are provided with all support and a nodal officer has also been appointed. All manufacturers are insisting on sufficient space for setting up these charging or battery swapping stations."

Realising that space is a major constraint in the area, the Bescom has already identified 250-300 locations.

"To promote the consumer, we are providing subsidised tariffs and private players providing land for setting up stations will be given Rs 1 per unit. In other states, the service charges are very high but Bescom charging stations are being operated without service charges."

Manufacturers are also asking for a single tariff, Cholan said, adding that presently, they are paying the dual tariff.

"They have to pay demand and fixed charges. We have approached KERC to waive off fixed charges and this is expected to encourage more EV manufacturers to come forward."

MD said that since it takes at least 30-40 minutes to charge EVs, there is a need to find parking slots for charging vehicles. "We are in talks with BMTC and BMRCL. In the case of charging in apartments, independent meters are needed. If users go for the regular meter, it is at a high rate of Rs 7-8 per unit. We are offering subsidised rates, but there is no space to establish the charging infrastructure in apartments."

Another challenge, Cholan said, is that manufacturers are coming up with different types of chargers and there is no inter-adaptability. "We cannot provide space for all company chargers. One charging station should be able to support all types of manufacturers."

Bescom plans to develop app that will enable EV users to pre-book parking slots

"We have created a single-window system for people applying for battery charging stations or battery swapping stations

–Rajendra Cholan, Bescom Managing Director

'Makers will need govt support for longer term'

The electric vehicle manufacturers will need government support for a longer term until the EV market becomes self-sustainable, more affordable and within the reach of the common man, a Parliamentary panel said in a report.

The department-related parliamentary standing committee on industry has also expressed concerns over a "lacklustre progress" in both physical and financial targets set under the FAME II scheme (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles).

The report said that the heavy industries ministry needs to promote electric mobility colossally by working towards technological solutions through R&D efforts with industry, research and development agencies.

The ministry, it said, must plan a road map to reap the opportunity for proliferation of production, sales and incentivisation of EVs. "The committee is of the view that the manufacturers will need the support from the government for a longer term."

The committee recommends that a medium and long-term transparent and visible regulatory road map with staggered timeline of regulations should be made available to the industry so that they can plan their investments, technologies and product development in an efficient manner, and cost escalation caused due to fulfilling regulatory guidelines for automobiles can be

stabilised. "To bring down the cost of technology, the committee recommends that emphasis should be laid on faster localisation of manufacturing of automobile components, which shall also be supported by increased volumes as the installation rates and vehicle volumes will grow over time," it said. The panel also recommended the ministry to ensure utilisation of the funds made available for the PLI (production-linked incentive) scheme before the end of 2021-22 for the purpose envisaged. Expressing concerns over the allocation of meagre funds for the development of capital goods sector, it suggested that the ministry should address the issue of huge curtailment of funds and seek enhanced allocation at RE (revised estimate) stage so as to promote the growth of the sector.

"There is an urgent need for creating an ecosystem for export promotion, investment, technology, automation and driving new sustainable solutions, which is crucial for accelerating India's growth trajectory and harnessing the full potential," it said. It suggested that BHEL should take initiatives to diversify in the areas related to power, emission, transportation, transmission, defence, oil and rigs, and focus on capital investment projects. **–PTI**

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Nellore Bhaskar Raju Swathi S/O, N Bhaskar Raju R/o #59, A Sector 4th Cross, Muneshwara Block have changed my name to Nalluru Bhaskar Raju Swathi

I Joseph dennis josiah father of pradeep dennis holder of Indian passport number R540060 issued at toranto on 16/03/2017 permanent resident of 18 prashanta nilaya 2nd cross CIL layout cholanagar RT Nagar post Bangalore 560032 Karnataka India and presently residing at 109-10 regency park drive. Halifax , Nova Scotia B3S1P2 Canada do hereby change the name of my son pradeep dennis to Jude pradeep dennis with immediate effect.

I, ABDUL RAHMAN VISWESWARAN, S/o. late. K.N.Visweswaran R/o at No.E-601, Meadows, NCC Urban, Doddaballapura Main Road, Yelahanka, Bengaluru have changed my name to Sriram Visweswaran

I, SHREYA VASUDEV ACHARYA D/o Vasudev Acharya residing at B902, Mahaveer Riviera, Off 24th Main, J P Nagar 5th Phase, Bangalore 560078 have changed my name to SHREYA ACHARYA vide affidavit dated 17.03.2022 sworn before notary D S Chandrakanth, B.lore-09.

I Bhavya Kenchappa Srinivas D/O, Srinivasa Kenchappa (SRINIVAS.K) R/o N0-18/14,Bhavya Nilaya,32nd Cross,behind Water Tank, Kumaraswamy Layout 1st Stage,bengaluru-78 have changed my name to Bhavya Srinivasa for all purposes

I, ANAND, S/o Sharanappa Avati residing at No.156/4J, 16th Cross, Bhagavati Layout, Hulimavu, Bangalore 560076 have changed my name to ANAND AVATI vide affidavit dated 17.03.2022 sworn before notary D S Chandrakanth, Bangalore-09.

I, Venkatesha S.L S/o Lakshmana, R/o No.8, Shivaramapura, PH Halli post, Kunigal Taluk, Tumakuru District-572123 have changed my name to VENKATESH S.L affidavit Dt.24/03/2022 notary Harisha.G, B'luru.

I, Swati Reddi W/o Murali Krishna Reddi, R/o Seri street, Parlakhemundi, Gajapati, Odisha-761200 today my camp at Bengaluru, have changed my name to Swati Bhogapuram affidavit Dt.24/03/2022 notary A.R Muneer Ahmed, B'luru

I Usharani Guruvelli W/o Agasti Sarat Babu R/o 104, aditi Residency, 9th Cross,9th Main, beml 4th Stage, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Bangalore 560098. have changed my name to Agasti Usha Rani for all purposes.

I, VIDYA NAGARAJ, W/o Nagaraj Lakshmana Murthy residing at No.231, Viraj Nilaya, 6th Cross, Ambhabha vani Temple Road, Shamaraja pura, Yelahanka, Bangalore 560097 have changed my name to VIDYA SINGANPALLYA RAMACHANDRA RAO vide affidavit dated 22.03.2022 sworn before notary D S Chandra kanth, Bangalore-09.

I, Sudha Rani Thukka Residing at No.591, 1st A Main Road, HSR Layout, 6th Sector, Bengaluru- 560102 have changed my name to SUDHA RANI GATTU vide affidavit dated 24.03.2022, Sworn before Notary: B.M.Chandrashekar, Bengaluru. In future transactions and correspondence will stand in the name of SUDHA RANI GATTU.

I, Raniyamma Venkatamuni Shekar w/o Shekar.M R/o No.251, 4th cross, Kaveri nagar, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru 560048 have changed my name to RANIYAMMA SHEKAR affidavit Dt.24/03/2022 notary A R Muneer Ahmed, B'luru

I, SARITHA SINGH, W/o. Niyamathulla Syed, R/o. 42, 20th Mn, 19th Crs, SMS L/o, JP Nagar, 5th Phase, Blr-78, have changed my name to SHAHEEN SYED vide affidavit dt: 24/03/22 before Notary K.MURALIDHARAN, B'lr.

I, VASUDEV ACHARYA residing at B902, Mahaveer Riviera, Off 24th Main, J P Nagar 5th Phase, Bangalore 560078 have changed my minor Daughter's name from SHRAVYA VASUDEV ACHARYA to SHRAVYA ACHARYA vide affidavit dated 17.03.2022 sworn before notary D S Chandrakanth, Bangalore-09.

I, AISHA KARUNAKARAN W/o JAICE K JAMES aged about 34 Years, R/at Vmaks Rangoli Apartment No.315, Anantha Nagar Road, Electronic City Bangalore-560100 have changed my name to AISHA JAICE vide affidavit dated:24/3/2022 Before Notary Chanchala Lakshmi Bangalore.

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Underpass coming up, just a bit ahead

Kundalahalli underpass may miss March-end deadline, but work is going on

Iffath.Fathima
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Work is going on at a steady pace on Kundalahalli underpass

Work is still going on at the long-delayed Kundalahalli underpass. Its latest deadline was the end of March and now with five days left in the month it seems unlikely that the underpass work will be completely done by then.

The project was launched by BBMP in 2019 to ease traffic congestions at the ITPL main road. The project is also a part of 17-km-long signal free corridor project along the Old Airport Road. Over five deadlines were given since then to the project. Now it is March-end and though work is almost over, it is not yet over.

The project at an estimated cost of Rs 25 crore, faced hurdles, especially with land aquisition. Over 27 properties needed to be acquired of which some owners didn't agree, and some were in litigation. In November 2021, BBMP said land aquisition issues were sorted. Since then work was moving fast, but, in it has been lagging for the last few weeks.

Lokesh M, BBMP Chief Engineer (Projects), told Bangalore Mirror that most of the work is completed and only asphalting of the ramps remains. "Only ramp asphalting is to be carried out. The major box portion of the under pass is completed. In another 10 days, we will complete all the work," he said.

The underpass will help connect the area to EPIP Zone, Brookefield, Varthur and Whitefield, and considerably cut commute time.

Clement Jaykumar, Secretary of Mahadevpura Task Force, said, "Currently, contractors are carrying out the work. Festivals had slowed down work. As of now upper and lower ramp asphalting is to be done. Once that is done, traffic movement from Marthahalli to Varthur and Varthur towards Marthahalli will get smoother." Residents who have been closely working with the officials said a payment inssue has slowed down work.

Ajit Lakshmiratan, retired RBI officer and an activist following the project, said, "According to the site engineer, the underpass portion will soon be white topped and the tabletop will be done by next week. The table top work is important as once it's over and opened, it will help in the movement of commuters coming from ITPL to Marthahalli. The contractor at the site said it would take a month for completion. We have waited long and now we see the work happening."

Lakshmiratan added that the BBMP and contractors have been been in touch with citizens and are updating them. "We had asked for LED lights on a stretch, which was added so the road is bright. Some parts need more lights. As they are in touch with us, the citizens know about the work's progress," he said.

RRRoaring protest

Protesters outside the Triveni theatre tore up a poster of the film RRR in Bengaluru on Thursday

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

CSK: Dhoni steps aside, Jadeja in

#MUMBAI

Twelve seasons, four title triumphs and five runner-up finishes later, the iconic Mahendra Singh Dhoni has decided to hand over the captaincy of Chennai Super Kings to his trusted lieutenant, Ravindra Jadeja.

In a brief statement, CSK said the 40-year-old will continue to represent the franchise for the "season and beyond", having led one of the most successful IPL sides since the tournament's inception in 2008 -- barring the two seasons when the team was suspended in the wake of the spot-fixing scandal. **PTI**

Virat smells the coffee

Packaged coffee products maker Rage Coffee said on Wednesday it has secured funding from former Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli, who has also been roped in as its brand ambassador.

The Delhi-based startup, however, did not disclose the amount of investment made by Kohli. The company said it plans to expand its online presence and offline footprint across the country and will utilize the fresh capital for marketing and distribution purposes.

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Bengaluru women for climate action

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The initiative will educate and empower women championing sustainable and community-based solutions for the city

The full potential of women to take action against climate change can be only realised through policies and actions that empower women," said Harish Kumar, special commissioner, solid waste management, BBMP and nodal officer of the programme.

The initiative will educate and empower women championing sustainable and community-based solutions that will contribute to their city's climate priorities and action plans.

"It is a platform for them to build strong networks across C40 cities, learn about each other's projects, share their achievements and ideas for improvements. They will be expected to attend bi-monthly training sessions to strengthen their climate leadership skills," said Harish Kumar.

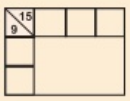
The ten-month-long mentorship programme will provide monthly access to training and networking opportunities for the selected women, connecting them with the climate change fighters from other cities.

"As many as 10-20 mentees will be selected under the programme in 2022. We encourage women from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented communities to come forward and participate. We are looking at women whose climate solutions aim to engage or build skills of citizens from hard-to-reach and frontline communities. It can also be women who are developing green initiatives or tech projects in the space. Women volunteers and activists are welcome to apply too. Applicants will be selected based upon their motivation, potential and ideas," an official said.

The selected mentees will be recognised as climate professionals by the end of the mentorship programme and shall receive a certificate of participation from the BBMP and C40 Cities.

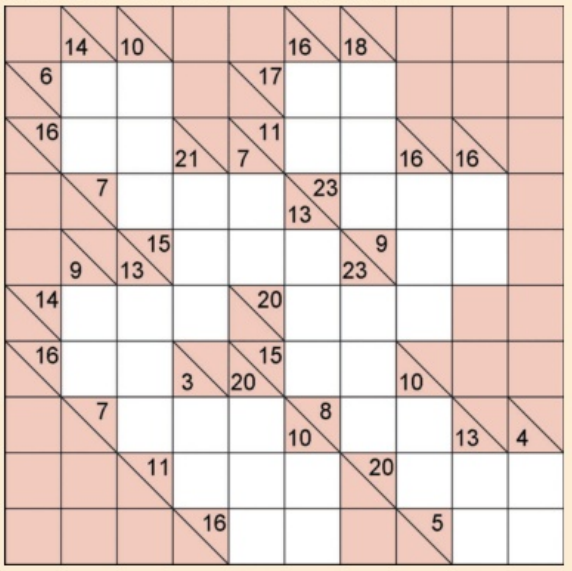
Applications to the programme are open till April 3 and the list of selected women will be announced on April 18.

Kakuro

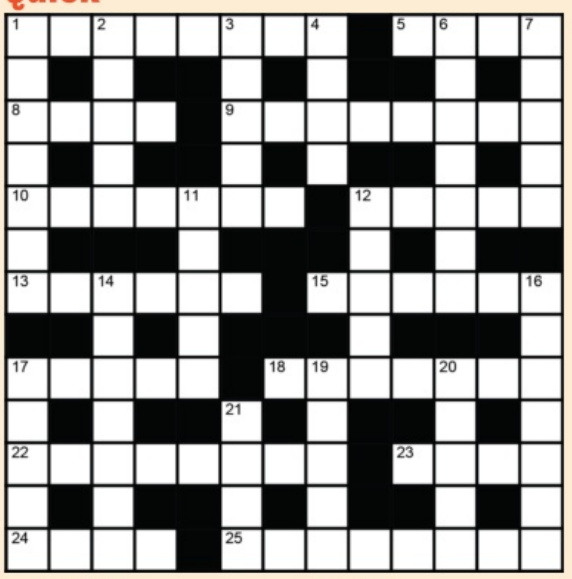


The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 City in Saurashtra (8)
5 Eye complaint (4)
8 Microsoft's gaming console (4)
9 Ceding, surrendering or giving up (8)
10 Break up, separate forcibly (7)
12 Indian lute (5)
13 Argentine plain (6)
15 Olympic gold medallist ___ Chopra (6)
17 Dad's sisters? (5)
18 Loser (4-3)
22 Terrible (8)
23 Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike in short (4)
24 Clothes line? (4)
25 Sound reduction device (8)

DOWN

1 Mentally confused (5-2)
2 Implements (5)
3 Honour a debt? (3,2)
4 Stink (4)
6 Tornado (7)
7 Keen (5)
11 Famous mountain range in Russia (5)
12 Proofer's notations (5)
14 Roman goddess of wisdom (7)
16 A coniferous evergreen shrub or tree (7)
17 Residue (5)
19 In the near vicinity (5)
20 Renaissance fiddle (5)
21 Newts (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: X EQUALS D

JKK ER KCRZ CB IZJSB JYX HJKKZTB. XEY'L KZL LQZ IZJSB MZL LEE QCMQ JYX LQZ HJKKZTB LEE KEP.

Linemaro

I play the field, and it looks like I just hit a sixer with you

Mindchow

Boredom is a vital problem for the moralist, since at least half the sins of mankind are caused by the fear of it

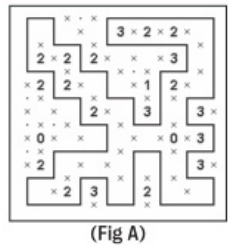
Joke of the day

A programmer is someone who solves a problem you didn't know you had in a way you don't understand

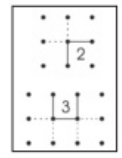
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



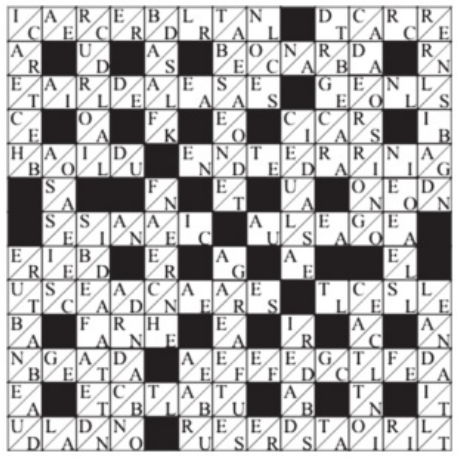
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

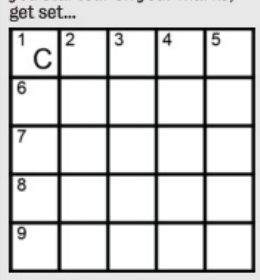
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

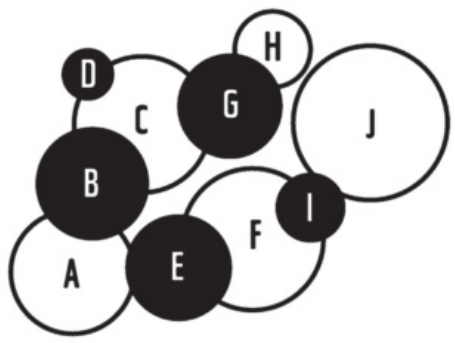
1 Sir BC; 6 Siren; 7 Oasis; 8 N Huck; 9 Is gee

DOWN

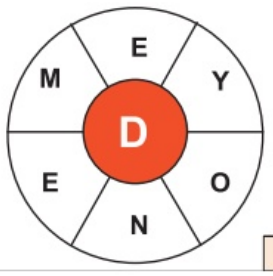
1 Or CCs; 2 Irish; 3 Sues I; 4 Begin; 5 Skean

Mensapuzzle

Which is the second smallest circle and which is the second largest circle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; **11** Good; **13** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

3			2	4			1	
5			6		1	2	7	
				6	4		9	
2	6		5		7		4	8
	1		8	3				
	8	2	3		6			4
	4			2	8			7

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 11
1 3 7 8

Medium = 4
3 6 7 8

Hard = 18
3 5 6 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

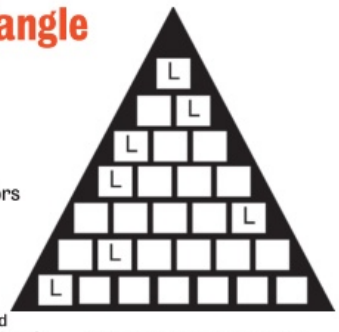
Differences: 1. Wagon is longer. 2. Tree is moved. 3. Backpack is smaller. 4. Leg is moved. 5. Wagon handle is different. 6. Bush is different.

Riddler

What gets wet when drying?

Alpha triangle

1 Litre
2 Spanish article
3 Give permission
4 Slow
5 Pilfer
6 Overjoys
7 Papal ambassadors



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

This might sound weird, but I feel like staying at home and soaking in a tub of cold milk.
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BIZARRO.COM
Wayno & Piraro 1-20-22
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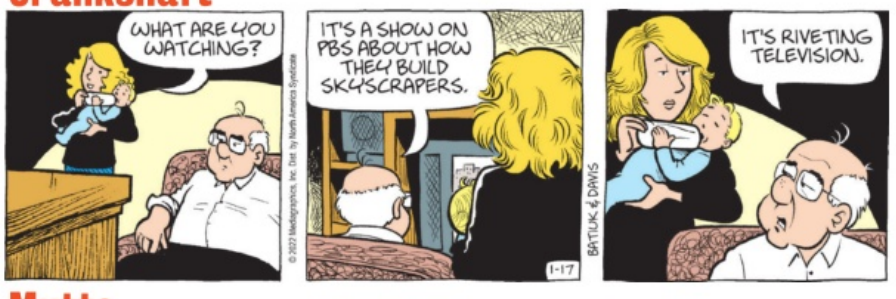
Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

... I JUST READ SOME FANFICTION ABOUT THEM!
IT'S ALL ABOUT ILMIRRA AND HIS LOVE FOR THE VIGILANT SENTRY AND HOW THEIR CLOTHES ARE ACTUALLY GIFTS TO EACH OTHER.
AWW, CUTE!
THAT SOUNDS A LOT LIKE THE STORY I TOLD CHARLOTTE...
NEXT!
THE SCARF MATCHES THE BOAR'S JACKET AND IS THEIR ONLY WAY TO SHOW THEIR DEVOTION FOR EACH OTHER!
HMM...
NEXT!

Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may help needy people around you. It may increase your reputation in the society. New ideas may come to your mind. You may implement the innovations into the work, which may increase your business. Love birds may plan for outings or some adventure trips.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, your spiritual power may make you happy. You are happy with your positive thinking, which may give you confidence. You are inclined to spiritualism today. You may plan to visit some religious place. You may also take interest in occult science. You are likely to observe flawlessness in your nature. It is advised to keep your views with yourself; try to discuss them with those who may understand your feelings.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel nervous; you may have a lack of patience. For seeking peace, you may be attracted to the occult; it is advised to follow your intuition before making any important decision. You may also get deep knowledge on a subject or you may have a good focus on your research.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, your moon is placed in a good position. You may expect some positive momentum in professional and domestic life. You may expect gains in terms of your investments. You may get help from your friends and relatives. Your hard work may pay you in terms of success.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may find yourself in a self-analysis state, which will bring some confidence in you. Your focus towards your goals is now clear; you may get success to achieve your goal. Your creativity may improve and you will take interest in artefacts, movies, glamour and real-life objects. At the end of the day, you may be satisfied with your life. Your opponents are expected to be under control now.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, your mother's health may be good. You may enjoy work; you may get rewards after your hard work. Your social respect may increase now. Overworking your mind may make you tired. Due to work-load, you may not be able to attend some family events.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel dull; it is advised to keep your mind cool. It's a golden rule for you to think twice before acting. You may travel to recover your money; otherwise, you may lose it. You are also advised to avoid going for adventure trips. Students are advised to go for in-depth study to get success.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may stay satisfied at work. You may plan for a short work-related trip. You may also visit some relatives. Disputes with siblings may resolve. Your gurus may show you the right path, which may give you clarity regarding your goals.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be busy with domestic issues. You may spend money buying some artefacts or house-hold stuff. You are advised to control spending on worthless stuff, otherwise it may attract negative energy in the house. You are also advised to control your way of speaking with the people around you.

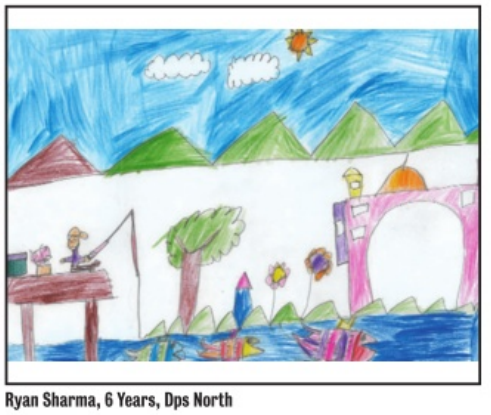
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may feel good; domestic harmony may make you happy. You may meet an influential person to get some benefits in the work front. You may perform well in your job. You may expect some rewards in terms of promotion. Disputes related to an inherited property may settle down.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel dull. You may be a victim of sleeplessness due to anxiety. It is advised to practise meditation. You may also spend money to show off in society, which may affect your savings. You are advised to avoid rash driving and adventure trips.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you are blessed by the positive moon. Your losses may convert into profits. You may be in the winning position in state-related matters. Couples expecting a child may hear good news. Parents' health is also under control.

KIDZONE

Sana R Kuttur, 8 Years, Saint Joseph's Convent School



Ryan Sharma, 6 Years, Dps North

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$\sqrt{[81]}+\sqrt{[16]}\times\frac{1}{2}$
$3+4^2$
$3+8$
11

BULL'S EYE
deem, demon, deny, dome, done, dyne, eyed, mend, mode, MONEYED, need, needy, node

FAST FIVE

S	I	E	G	E
O	S	S	I	A
C	H	U	N	K
R	I	S	E	N
C	R	I	B	S

RIDDLER A towel

QUOTE UNCODE
All of life is peaks and valleys. Don't let the peaks get too high and the valleys too low.

STRIKE OUT

C	E	R	E	B	R	A	L	■	D	A	C	E
A	U	■	A	■	B	O	A	R	D	■	N
T	I	R	E	L	E	S	S	■	E	O	N	S
C	A	■	K	■	E	■	C	A	R	■	I
H	O	L	D	■	E	N	T	E	R	I	N	G
A	■	F	■	I	■	A	■	N	O	N
S	I	N	A	I	■	U	S	A	G	E
R	I	D	■	R	G	■	E	■	L
B	A	R	E	■	A	R	■	A	N
U	S	E	D	C	A	R	S	■	L	E	S	E
■	I	■	L	■	■	T	■	■
P	A	M	P	A	S	■	N	E	E	R	A	J
■	■	■	R	■	■	T	■	E	■	■
D	I	S	R	U	P	T	■	S	I	T	A	R
E	L	■	U	■	K	■	S	■	E
X	B	O	X	■	Y	I	E	L	D	I	N	G
I	■	O	■	A	■	E	■	W	■	A
M	I	T	H	A	P	U	R	■	S	T	Y	E

QUICK

S	E	A	M	■	S	I	L	E	N	C	E	R
E	■	V	■	T	■	A	■	E	■	E
H	O	R	R	I	F	I	C	■	B	O	M	P
S	■	E	■	E	■	O	■	E	■	I
A	U	N	T	■	A	L	S	O	R	A	N
■	I	■	L	■	■	T	■	■
P	A	M	P	A	S	■	N	E	E	R	A	J
U	■	■	■	R	■	■	T	■	■	■
D	I	S	R	U	P	T	■	S	I	T	A	R
E	L	■	U	■	K	■	S	■	E
H	O	R	R	I	F	I	C	■	B	O	M	P
E	■	V	■	T	■	A	■	E	■	E
S	E	A	M	■	S	I	L	E	N	C	E	R

MENSA PUZZLE
I is the second smallest. F is the second largest.

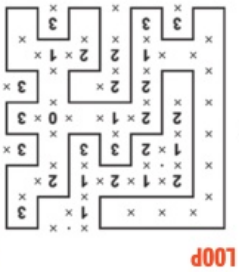
SUDOKU

3	7	8	2	4	9	5	1	6
5	9	4	6	8	1	2	7	3
6	2	1	7	5	3	4	8	9
8	5	7	1	6	4	3	9	2
2	6	3	5	9	7	1	4	8
4	1	9	8	3	2	7	6	5
9	3	6	4	7	5	8	2	1
7	8	2	3	1	6	9	5	4
1	4	5	9	2	8	6	3	7

ALPHA TRIANGLE
L, El, Let, Late, Steal, Elates, legates.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 − 3 − 1 + 8 = 11
Medium
8 − 5 − 7 + 6 = 4
Hard
5 + 6 + 3 + 4 = 18

LOOP



KAKURO

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 # 2017 actress abduction case
The team probing the case in which actor Dileep is the main accused, may serve a notice to his wife Kavya Madhavan to appear before it

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The nominees....

Five Bollywood movies that scored Oscar nominations

The Indian film industry has grown leaps and bounds over the years. It has churned out some great content that not only received appreciation from people in India but also appealed to a global audience. This year, 'Writing With Fire' has been nominated in the Best Documentary Feature category at the 94th Academy Awards. Ahead of the grand ceremony, here's taking a look at five Bollywood movies that scored Oscar nominations.

Mother India
The Sunil Dutt and Nargis starrer 'Mother India' is undoubtedly one of the cult classic films we have in Bollywood. The movie was reportedly one of the most expensive Bollywood productions of its time. According to reports, it was also one of the highest-earning films at the box office until the release of 'Mughal-e-Azam'. The Mehboob Khan directorial also starred Raaj Kumar and Rajendra Kumar. 'Mother India' was nominated in the Best Foreign Language Film category.

Salaam Bombay
Critically acclaimed movie, 'Salaam Bombay' bagged a nomination in the Best Foreign Film category in 1989. The movie was co-written, directed and co-produced by Mira Nair. The film gave an insight into the world of drugs, prostitution and child labour in the slums of India. It starred Shafiq Syed, Raghuvir Yadav, Anita Kanwar, Nana Patekar, Hansa Vithal and Chanda Sharma.

Lagaan
Ashutosh Gowariker's critically and commercially acclaimed 'Lagaan' is still one of the most loved films. The movie is about a small group of village people, who challenge a newly imposed tax by competing against British rulers in a cricket championship. It starred Aamir Khan and Gracy Singh in lead roles. The movie also caught the attention of the international audience by bagging a nomination in the Best Foreign Language Film Category.

Little Terrorist
Fashion designer Ritu Kumar's son Ashvin Kumar's short film, 'Little Terrorist' was nominated in the Best Live Action Short Film category at the Academy Awards. The film was written, directed and produced by Ashvin and starred Julfugar Ali in the lead role. The movie was about a 12-year-old Pakistani Muslim who accidentally crosses the border and befriends a Hindu Brahmin, Bhola.

The White Tiger
The latest Indian film to grab the attention of the global audience was 'The White Tiger' that starred Priyanka Chopra, Rajkummar Rao and Adarsh Gourav. Written and directed by Ramin Bahrani, the movie is about an ambitious Indian driver (played by Adarsh) who uses his wit to escape from poverty. The film was nominated in the Best Adapted Screenplay category."
— ETimes

Prabhas-Pooja tiff? Nah, good vibes only

Pooja Hegde broke her silence on the rumours of her fallout with 'Radhe Shyam' co-star Prabhas and the controversy with Samantha Ruth Prabhu.

In an interview with a news portal, the actor said that negative news was more saleable than positive news. Even though the news may not be true but people love to talk and debate about it. Pooja added that she believes in flooding her life with positive vibes only and so she said she has made it a point to post only good things on her social media.

Earlier, the makers of 'Radhe Shyam' had reacted to the reports of cold vibes between Prabhas and Pooja. They had issued a statement that read, 'These reports are completely baseless. Prabhas and Pooja Hegde have great respect and admiration for each other. In fact, they share a great camaraderie off-screen and that has translated into some magical onscreen chemistry. Pooja has always been very punctual for her shoots. She is very easy to work with. These rumours are merely a figment of someone's imagination. All is well between the leading pair and the entire team is very excited to bring audiences a theatrical experience they won't forget.'

Back in 2020, a story from Pooja's Instagram profile had a photo of Samantha from one of her movies. Atop the photo, were the words, "I don't find her pretty at all" written, that had caused an internet hullabaloo amongst fans.

—ETimes

No biopics for John please

Bollywood actor John Abraham recently appeared in the latest episode of Shilpa Shetty's talk show 'Shape Of You'. During the fun session, the actor opened up about his lifestyle, fitness, diet, work and even disclosed his reluctance towards signing up for a biopic.

John told Shilpa that he would rather decline an offer to star in a biopic simply because there are too many biopics out there. "As an audience, I am tired of watching so many biopics," he said and went on to reveal his fascination towards opening up a studio and even starting his secret radio station.

Earlier, John had also shared that soon will be completely quitting social media. "I don't have any social media on my phone. I am not even on WhatsApp. I am only on the traditional SMS of the stone age era. And very soon I will be going off social media completely," he told Shilpa.